Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4727
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, AL, LY, EG

SUBJ: POSSIBLE ARAB LEAGUE DISCUSSION OF LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN DISPUTE

1. SEPTEMBER 7TH LOCAL MEDIA REPORTS OF NOVEMBER ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN TUNISIA SUGGESTS CONVENING OF CONFERENCE WAS A RESULT OF LIBYAN EFFORTS. PRESS STATES THAT ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED LIBYA'S CALL FOR HOLDING OF THE CONFERENCE TO "DEAL WITH THE CAUSES PROPOSED BY COLONEL QADHAFI". IN AN EFFORT TO SUBSTANTIATE LIBYAN RESPONSIBILITY FOR NOVEMBER ARAB SUMMIT PRESS QUOTES TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB SHATTI WHO TRANSITED TRIPOLI SEPTEMBER 6TH ON HIS RETURN FROM CAIRO ARAB LEAGUE FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING. THE TUNISIAN FOREIGN MINISTER IS REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED HIS THANKS TO LIBYA FOR HAVING TAKEN THE INITIATIVE TO CALL FOR THE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN TRIPOLI AND THEN DEMURRING TO TUNISIAN REQUEST TO HOST CONFERENCE. SHATTI REPORTEDLY STATED THAT LIBYAN DEFFERENCE WAS A RESULT OF "THE STRONG HISTORICAL LINKS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES". LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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2. LIBYAN DAILY AL FAJR AL JADID GAVE FRONT PAGE BANNER COVERAGE TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF SUMMIT CONFERENCE. WHILE MEDIA DOES NOT SPECIFICALLY REFER TO EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE, LIBYANS APPARENTLY ARE REFERRING TO EARLY JULY EFFORTS OF FOREIGN MINISTER TURAYKI TO PROMOTE ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE DISCUSSION OF EGYPTIAN-LIBYAN DISPUTE. UPON RETURN FROM

EARLY JULY WHIRLWIND TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS, FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI CLAIMED THAT FOURTEEN ARAB COUNTRIES HAD AGREED TO LIBYA'S CALL FOR CONVENING THE CONFERENCE. WHETHER OR NOT LIBYANS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE, IT IS ON SCHEDULE AND THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY TAKING CREDIT FOR IT. CARLE

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